

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Session III

What is a tolerance?

A tolerance is the maximum level of pesticide residue legally allowed in or on human food or animal feed.

What is Tolerance Reassessment?

Under FQPA, EPA is required to upgrade the risk assessment process for setting tolerances, and to reassess all tolerances and exemptions in effect as of the date FQPA was passed.

Deadlines

Tolerance reassessment must be completed by August 3, 2006.

S	33% by August 3, 1999
S	66% by August 3, 2002
S	100% by August 3, 2006

- Priority is to be given to the review of those tolerances that appear to pose the greatest risk to public health.
- To implement priority review, EPA (with the help of PPDC) divided all pesticide chemicals into three priority groups, with Group 1 containing the high-risk pesticides.
- These “groupings” were published in the Federal Register on August 4, 1997 as a tolerance reassessment schedule.

Priority Group 1

- Organophosphates (OPs),
- Carbamates,
- Organochlorines,
- Probable human carcinogens (B carcinogens),
- Possible human carcinogens which EPA has quantified a cancer potency (C carcinogens),
- RfD exceeders,
- High-hazard inerts.

Priority Group 2

- Remaining C Carcinogens.
- Remaining reregistration pesticides (registered before 1984).

Priority Group 3

- Biological pesticides,
- Most inert ingredients (except high hazard),
- Remaining post-1984 pesticides with tolerances or exemptions which have not yet been reassessed under FQPA,
- Remaining pre-FQPA chemicals with REDs (had a reregistration decision but have not yet had the tolerances or exemptions reviewed under FQPA standards).

Meeting FQPA Standards

In setting a tolerance, EPA must consider:

- S **aggregate non-occupational exposure** from the pesticide (dietary exposure, including exposure from drinking water, and exposure from using pesticides in and around the home);
- S the **cumulative effects** from pesticides with a common mechanism of toxicity;
- S whether there is **increased susceptibility** to infants and children, or other sensitive sub-populations from exposure to the pesticide; and
- S whether the pesticide produces an effect in humans similar to the effects produced by a naturally occurring **estrogen or endocrine** effect.
 - For the purposes of the Tolerance Reassessment Program, a tolerance is considered reassessed once the safety finding has been made, or a revocation occurs.

Sources of Reassessment

- **Reregistration Decisions**, or REDs. This involves an in-depth scientific review of data.
- **Registration Actions**. When a new use is allowed for an existing chemical, all existing uses must meet the FQPA standard and be determined to be “safe” before the new use is registered.
- Tolerance **Revocations after domestic use cancellation**.
- As of July 21, 1999, we have reassessed 3140 tolerances.
- We need to reassess 3208 tolerances by August 3, 1999 to meet our FQPA mandate to reassess 33% of the 9721 permanent tolerances in effect the day FQPA was passed.
- We are 98% there, and will meet or exceed 3208 tolerances.